

CONFIDENTIAL

November 6, 1962

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

November 2:

on Castro's November 1 speech said he did a skillful job in salvaging as much domestic prestige as possible in a situation humiliating to him and his listeners. All steps were pulled out in an appeal to his pride and nationalism, but he took care not to endanger the Cuban lifeline to the USSR. He was under visible restraint, was periodic at a loss for words, and looked as though his words were entirely contrary to his true feelings. He seemed to be afraid that his usual free flowing rhetoric would reveal thoughts best hidden from the Cuban public.

Castro's comments that there were matters that the Cuban public was not in a position to understand, and consequently that it was necessary to have faith, seemed to have a vintage Stalinist flavor, perhaps provided by an old Communist in his entourage.

Although Castro's words in relation to the USSR were measured, he could not disguise a frustrated rage at the Soviet retreat. He had announced to university students the previous night that he was deeply hurt by the Russian action.

that Castro's intellectual awareness of need for Soviet aid may not be sufficient in the long run to control his emotions "which seem to flare from an innermost neurotic conflict".

November 1: Reception of VOA Spanish broadcast night of October 31:

19 meter band inaudible possibly being jammed,
19 very weak in the evening,
25 satisfactory and 11 very good.

November 3:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NOV 6 1962

DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODC/MR

REVIEWED by RB [signature] DATE 3/1/88

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXTEND () DECLASSIFY in PART
(X) EXEMPT () Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions 2(a)(1)

TS authority to:

() DECLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () G, OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 -

A9 []
November 1: Prominence given to Khrushchev after initial coolness. This suggests that the Cubans have apparently, at any rate for propaganda purposes, overcome earlier misgivings over the Russians' attitude.

A3 []
El Mundo quotes New York Herald Tribune on American use of commercial medium wave stations to reinforce VOA coverage, and comments that this is unnecessary because President Kennedy's announcement of October 22 was taken out by Castro and greeted with ridicule. It (not clear whether this was El Mundo or Herald Tribune) adds that VOA signals can be heard normally in Cuba without any jamming.

On Castro's November 1 speech: His eulogy of the Soviet Union was balanced with a frank appeal to Cuban nationalism in Castro's most magnetic and persuasive manner. The speech may have rallied wavering, at least among Castro's supporters.

There is no evidence to substantiate Castro's claim of a flood of new recruits to the militia, but there have been rumors of increased pressure on the people to join.

The significant phrase "strategic arms" will be lost on all but the more sophisticated Cubans, and it would still be worth while for broadcast to spell out "long-range rockets with nuclear potential."

Key West was effectively jammed the night of November 2, but Aransas (1030) was loud and clear.

A9 []
November 5: Cuban press features support for Cuba from communists. Some prominence in Mundo for Chinese gesture for support, but very little in Hoy.

A9 []
November 8: Castro tired and preoccupied during November 1 speech. Some of the officials who attended also seemed preoccupied. Applause was little and late.

November 51

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

A9 [November 4: High crates have been brought on military trucks to Hanoi. Driven by young Russians. Probably contain missile and launching pad components. Some well-informed people believe that some components may be hidden in caves. Launching pads may have been hidden in sand. During U Thant's visit long convoys of trucks carried thousands of tons of white, black and gray sand from ports to the interior of the country. Well-informed people believe that a large part of the material could have been taken to Hanoi, to be shipped to the Isle of Pines. Impossible to verify this information.

November 5: In connection with the Mikoyan visit, some old Communists began a campaign among students to explain the need to sacrifice the interests of one communist country to international communism. However, the Cubans are hard to convince.

The people in general remain apathetic despite efforts of pro-government activists.

November 6: Voices of America is being received better in rural areas than in cities, where it is being jammed.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSCRIBED PAGES FOLLOW

CONFIDENTIAL

November 6, 1962

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

November 2: [] on Castro's November 1 speech said he did a skillful job in salvaging as much domestic prestige as possible in a situation humiliating to him and his listeners. All stops were pulled out in an appeal to his pride and nationalism, but he took care not to endanger the Cuban lifeline to the USSR. He was under visible restraint, was periodically at a loss for words and looked as though his words were entirely contrary to his true feelings. He seemed to be afraid that his usual free flowing rhetoric would reveal thoughts best hidden from the Cuban public.

[Castro's comments that there were matters that the Cuban public was not in a position to understand, and consequently that it was necessary to have faith, seemed to [] have a vintage Stalinist flavor, perhaps provided by an old Communist in his entourage.

Although Castro's words in relation to the USSR were measured, he could not disguise a frustrated rage at the Soviet retreat. He had announced to university students the previous night that he was deeply hurt by the Russian action. [3 lines deleted]

comments that Castro's intellectual awareness of need for Soviet aid may not be sufficient in the long run to control his emotions "which seem to flare from an innermost neurotic conflict".

[3 lines deleted]

[2 lines deleted]

November 1: Reception of VOA Spanish broadcast night of October 31:

49 meter band inaudible possibly being jammed.
19 very weak in the evening,
25 satisfactory and 31 very good.

November 3:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

[]

November 3: Prominence given to Mikoyan after initial coolness to him suggests that the Cubans have apparently, at any rate for propaganda purposes, overcome earlier misgivings over the Russians' attitude.

[3 lines deleted]

El Mundo quotes New York Herald Tribune on American use of commercial medium wave stations to reinforce VOA coverage, and comments that this was unnecessary because President Kennedy's announcement of October 22 was read out by Castro and greeted by ridicule. It (not clear whether this means El Mundo or Herald Tribune) adds that VOA signals can be heard normally in Cuba without any jamming.

On Castro's November 1 speech: His eulogy of the Soviet Union was balanced with a frank appeal to Cuban nationalism in Castro's most magnetic and persuasive manner. The speech may have rallied waverers, at least among Castro's supporters.

There is no evidence to substantiate Castro's claim of a flood of new recruits to the militia, but there have been rumors of increased pressure on the people to join.

The significant phrase "strategic arms" will be lost on all but the most sophisticated Cubans, and it would still be worth while for broadcasts to spell out "long-range rockets with nuclear potential."

Key West was effectively jammed the night of November 2, but Arkansas (1020) was loud and clear.

November 5: Cuban press features support for Cuba from [] communists. Some prominence in Mundo for Chinese gestures for support but very little in Hoy.

[2 lines deleted]

November 2: Castro tired and preoccupied during November 1 speech. Some of the officials who attended also seemed preoccupied. Applause was little and late.

November 5:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

[]

November 5: Huge crates have been brought on military trucks to Mariel. Driven by young Russians. Probably contain missile and launching pad components. Some well-informed people believe that some components may be hidden in caves. Launching pads may have been hidden in sand. During U Thant visit long convoys of trucks carried thousands of tons of white, black and grey sand from ports to the interior of the country. Well-informed people believe that a large part of the material could have been taken to [illegible] to be shipped to the Isle of Pines. Impossible to verify this information.

November 5: In connection with the Mikoyan visit, some old Communists began a campaign among students to explain the need to sacrifice the interests of one communist country to international communism. However, the Cubans are hard to convince.

The people in general remain apathetic despite efforts of pro-government activists.

November 5: Voice of America is being received better in rural areas than in cities, where it is being jammed.